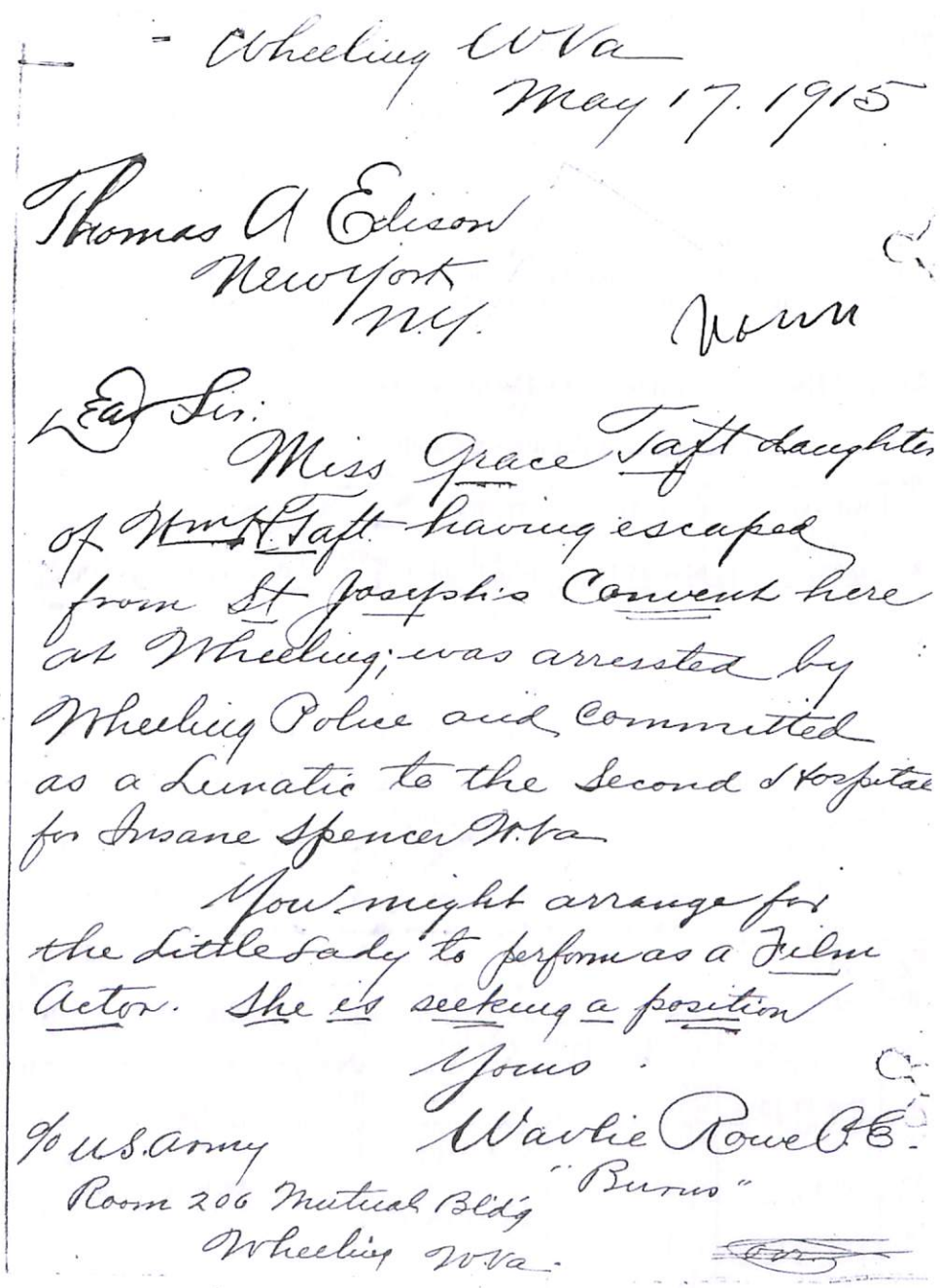
TAFT TALK

No. 68 *Newsletter of the Taft Family Association* **Jun 2015**



Wheeling W Va
May 17. 1915

Thomas A Edison
New York
N.Y.

Dear Sir:
Miss Grace Taft daughter of Wm H Taft having escaped from St Joseph's Convent here at Wheeling, was arrested by Wheeling Police and committed as a Lunatic to the Second Hospital for Insane Spencer W. Va

You might arrange for the Little Lady to perform as a Film Actor. She is seeking a position

Yours.
Wavlie Rowe P.E.
"Burns"

c/o U.S. Army
Room 206 Mutual Bldg
Wheeling W Va.

The unspoken past of some of our ancestors

This letter from Wavlie Rowe, P. E. "Burns" to Thomas A. Edison of New York, NY barely scratches the surface of a life… and yet it is as much as we know of this young woman's travails.

The letter at left reads:

Wheeling, W VA 17 May 1915
Thomas A. Edison, New York, NY

Dear Sir:
Miss Grace Taft daughter of Wm. H. Taft having escaped from St. Joseph's Convent here at Wheeling, was arrested by Wheeling Police and committed as a Lunatic to the Second Hospital for Insane, Spencer, W Va.
You might arrange for the Little Lady to perform as a Film Actor. She is seeking a position.

Yours,
Wavlie Rowe P.E., "Burns"
c/o U.S. Army, Room 206, Mutual Bldg., Wheeling, W Va.

See Edna Grace Taft cont p 3

Thoughts from TTT headquarters

Nothing like the thought of moving from your home of twenty years or more to wake you up to what you have stored.... in the basement, in the attic... everywhere. At any rate as I try to declutter, it has become paramount that I get all the Taft information I can onto the computer. Having stored the four four-drawer file cabinets from the Tom Collins California Taft Association files for many years as well as receiving much of Richard Taft Messinger's Taft files more recently, my lower floor looks like a library (if I'm wearing rose-colored glasses) or an army bunker (more realistic). Both Dick and Tom kept wonderful records of their correspondence with Taft cousins. Much of Tom Collins' work was parsed out to the different folks who were working on the brother lines, but there were still many, many file folders to be sorted through. I have spent the last year or so, reading letters and transcribing them into the TFA databases.

Among the collection are quite a few books and manuscripts. My suggestion is that these books would serve our members and the public much better if they were offered to New England Historic Genealogical Society, or possibly the Mendon or Uxbridge Historical Societies, rather than sitting in my basement. If I hear no objections, I will proceed to contact NEHGS first and see if they would appreciate adding these to their archives.

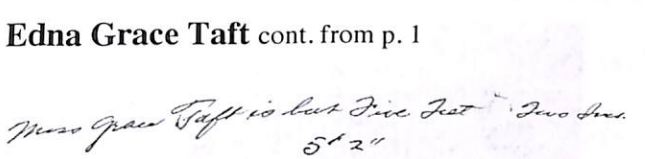
I think it is also time to begin creating an online site. Besides the various databases of vital records, census records, and historical memoirs, there are also quite a number of family photographs which would be wonderful to preserve in an accessible manner. A couple members have expressed interest in helping. Does anyone have actual experience with the programs available?

Madison Cemetery, Beaver, OK transcribed for us by Becky Grothe

The Tafts listed below are in the Daniel line, descendants of Aquila Ramsdell.

SURNAME	GIVEN	Row	BIRTH:	DEATH	OTHER	COMMENT
Slaven	Mae Taft	I-18	Nov 14 1888	May 25 1973	w/o Frank Taft	w/o Frank Stiles (1885)
Springer	Baby	H-27	Mar 9 1891		s/o J P & Prudie	
Springer	John P	H-25	Oct 27 1860	Oct 29 1892		hus/o Verona A Taft (1908)
Sullivan	Lloyd P		1916 Apr 30	1991 Nov 8	m. Jan 4 1951; ch: Michael & Steven	hus/o Verona A Taft (1908)
Sullivan	Lloyd P	E-100	Apr 30 1916	Nov 8 1991	m. Jan 14 1930	hus/o Verona A Taft (1908)
Sullivan	Verona "Taft"		1908 Oct 2	?2000	m. Jan 4 1951; Ch: Michael & Steven	d/o Frank Stiles (1885)
Taft	Amelia	E-83	1874	1928		w/o John Whitcomb (1874)
Taft	Aquila R	I-25	Dec 3 1809	Jan 8 1903	Age 93y 1m 5d	
Taft	Carl Stanley	E-86	1906	1956		s/o John Whitcomb (1874)
Taft	Frank S	I-20	1881	1925		s/o Wallace Whitcomb (1836)
Taft	Fred W	E-92	Jan 4 1867	Dec 12 1946		
Taft	Ida	E-96d	Dec 31 1913			w/o Robert L (1913)
Taft	Infant	I-21			s/o F S & M G	s/o Frank Stiles (1885)
Taft	John W	E-85	1874	1937		s/o Wallace Whitcomb (1836)
Taft	Len Vernon	E-78	Oct 16 1924	Oct 11 1926	s/o Johnny & Esta Taft	s/o John M (1900)
Taft	Lydia F	I-23	Jul 30 1839	Mar 31 1915	Age 75y 8m 1d	w/o Wallace Whitcomb (1836)
Taft	Philip	E-93	Nov 20 1934	Aug 14 1954	s/o Robert & Ida	s/o Robert L (1906)
Taft	Robert	E-96d	Jan 11 1906	Jun 13 1981		s/o Frank Stiles (1885)
Taft	George W		2 Jun 1915	9 Mar 1990	Pvt, US Army, WWII	s/o Frank Stiles (1885)

Edna Grace Taft cont. from p. 1


Miss Grace Taft is but Five Feet Two Ins.
5' 2"

Why would Thomas A. Edison have been the recipient of this information? Who knows? We have no more information on the writer either.

What we see is a young lady who has been placed in a convent probably by her family for her own good. Perhaps she was bi-polar. It appears from the reference to "film actor" that she must have been demonstrative and effusive in her reactions.

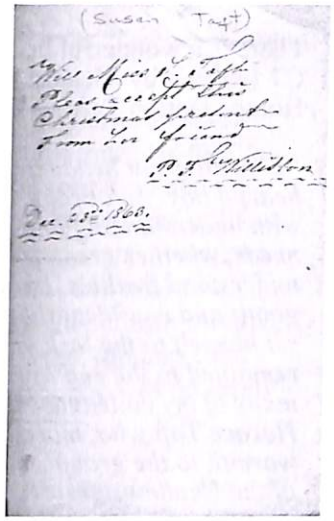
Fortunately for Miss Taft this was an era of awakening concern about institutions for the mentally ill. In the late 1800s "Madness was an elastic status... and most referrals originated from families who... found themselves unable to tolerate or provide care for a troublesome person... Confinement was a usually simple matter, typically achieved without legal complications... Treatments included restraints, cold baths, tooth extractions, and surgery on the brain or reproductive organs." We can only hope that WV was one of the enlightened states for treatment of her affliction. She returned to her mother's home by 1920, but in 1930 she was housed in the Philadelphia House for the Insane, aged 45.

Grace Edna Taft was born 19 Oct 1878 in Boston, MA (MAVR 297.206), the daughter of William Frederick Taft, a merchant in ladies trimmings, and Harriet E. "Hattie" King. In 1880 her family included an older brother Charles Chester, and a servant, a younger brother George F. Taft, having died as an infant. By 1900 Grace and her parents were living in Philadelphia, PA where her father was a textile manufacturer. Her father died 15 Jan 1919 and her mother 16 Jul 1926 both in Philadelphia, PA (PAVR). Her brother, Charles Chester Taft, had married in 1898 but his son was living with his grandfather in 1910 and in 1920 he was in his mother's household as well listed as single, thus undoubtedly divorced. From the letter we know that in 1915 Grace was living in the Mount Saint Joseph Convent and then was placed in the Second Hospital for the Insane in Spencer, WV. In 1920 she was with her mother, but after her death she was placed in the Philadelphia House for the Insane. She has not been found in the 1940 census and her death has not been found.

Grace Edna Taft was the daughter of William Frederick (Timothy Sullivan, Sullivan, Timothy, Noah, Joseph, Thomas, Robert) Taft.

Quote from "The Political Economy of Madness" by John R. Sutton, University of CA, Santa Barbara

Bibeln for Susan


(Susan Taft)
Will Miss S. Taft
Please accept this
Christmas present
from her friend
P. F. Williston
Dec. 23 1863.

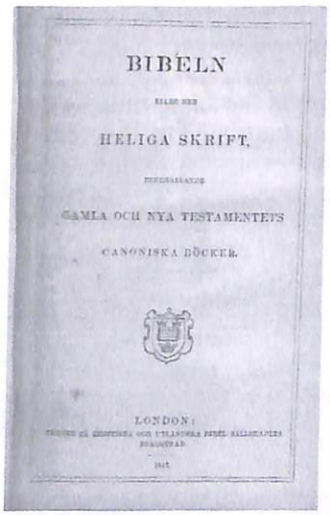
Pam Selwood King sent us a small bible (3-1/2" x 5-1/4") handed down within their family probably from Beatrice (Taft) Pickard to Ellen (Messinger) Selwood and then to Pam.

The inscription reads:

Will Miss S. Taft
Please accept this
Christmas present
From her friend.
P. F. Williston Dec. 23, 1863

I have not found a P. F. Williston yet who might be this person. It suggests a suitor for her affections; but if so, it did not result in a marriage, for she remained single. Perhaps he was on his way to the Civil War and did not return. She obviously accepted the gift. "Susie" Taft lived in Framingham after her father's death.

The other interesting aspect of this Bible is that it is in Swedish, most unusual for a Taft: Bibeln Eller Den Heliga Skrift, Innehallande Gamla Och Nya Testamentets, Canoniska Bocker (i.e.: Bible or the Holy Scriptures containing the Old and New Testatment Canonical Books) published in London in 1847.


BIBELN
HELIGA SKRIFT,
GAMLA OCH NYA TESTAMENTETS
CANONISKA BÖCKER.
LONDON:

Susan Amanda "Susie" Taft was born 29 Jan 1834 in Mendon, MA (VR 177) and died 7 Feb 1912 in Framingham, MA (MAVR 43.255), the daughter of Amariah (Jotham, Caleb, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

The Taft School and Horace Dutton Taft

There is a wonderful book about the Taft School in Watertown, CT (written by Richard H. Lovelace) and by extension about Horace Dutton Taft, its founder.

"Like all great headmasters, Horace Taft remained always at heart a boy. And because that heart was great and overflowing with understanding and sympathy it responded swiftly to the needs, whether great or small, of the boys of his school. He understood frailties; but he understood as well the potential good; and confident that this good would eventually prevail he set himself to the task of hastening that happy day, and remained to the end of his life an optimist. For myself, and for many of my colleagues in the Headmasters Assocation it was Horace Taft who, more than anyone else, gave color and warmth to the group. Among ourselves we dubbed him Prince of the Headmasters. He will always be just that to me."

—Alfred E. Stearns *Headmaster Emeritus, Andover*

Horace Dutton Taft graduated from Yale in 1883 and studied at the Cincinnati Law School. Finding law not to his liking, he traveled with a friend to Kansas City, where he tutored a boy in algebra. He returned to Yale to tutor Latin from 1887-1890, but in the fall of 1889 he contracted typhoid fever. During his convalescence, he traveled to San Diego. Returning to New England he met Mrs. Robert Black who proposed starting a school in the "Red House" she owned, with Horace as headmaster. He does recount that he might have been better served to have had more experience under his belt before he started.

The Taft School opened on 25 Sep 1890 in Pelham Manor, Westchester Co., NY offering boys, both boarding and day students, of good moral character a four year course that would prepare them for the best colleges, careful attention being given to the boy's use of English. Recreation would be given in daily exercise as well. The cost for boarding students was set at $600 per year, day students at $200.

The first student body, arriving at the same time as the tables, chairs, and beds for the school, consisted of seventeen boys of all grades. Horace taught mathematics and Latin, with others teaching Greek and the humanities. "We had nothing fit for a school, I think, except ambition. We certainly had a very low standard in scholarship; but we were aware of it, and we struggled hard. ... Discipline was very primitive and direct.... I waked the boys up in the morning, pulling blankets off when necessary... In my stay in Pelham Manor, I learned a good deal about a headmaster's work, even if a large part of it consisted of learning how not to do it. Moreover I am inclined to think that I had far more than my share of boys who needed peculiar handling..."

By 1893 the school had been moved to Watertown, CT into the Warren House, a huge four-story white wooden hotel building. "It was a forsaken place. The building had been closed all winter and was cold and dirty."

The building and six acres were leased for five years with a right to purchase. The first few years they had to manufacture gas from gasoline in a small adjunct building. "At the beginning the flame was very rich and smoky, so that all the ceilings were 'smoked up.' The light then ran down and became very thin, until we moved something up a notch, when the richness and the smoke began again, and so on...Nobody could ever have given a warmer welcome to electric light than we did... Each floor of the building had one bathroom serving all the boys and masters living there...."

That first year in Watertown there were five masters and thirty students. "the standard of scholarship was slowly rising (it could hardly have fallen) and discipline was firmer, but not less human."

"Many things gave me confidence, however. The mere fact that we had improved so much was one. Another was my growing pleasure in contact with the boys in groups and separately, and my feeling of confidence in the loyalty and friendship of both boys and masters.

See The Taft School cont p 6

A life well lived, a friend to all of us

Berneta M. (Lowell) DeVries

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Berneta DeVries. Berneta was our juggler supreme - she was our secretary/treasurer for several years: she was the one you connected with for your dues and your questions (which she then doled out to the rest of us); she was one of those steadfast ladies who handled the Mendon reunions for so many years; she was the one who often would meet her extended cousins and take you around the area to see the Taft sites (or she would have her cousin David Lowell do the same). Berneta was a gentle force of nature, kindness and enthusiasm personified, with boundless energy to spare. She will be sorely missed by many of us.

Berneta M. (Lowell) DeVries died on 1 Dec 2014 in Milford, MA. She was born 4 Jul 1927 in Mendon, MA, the daughter of Harold F. and Charlotte E. (Marlow) Lowell. Berneta Lowell married 18 Oct 1974 Herman B. DeVries who died in 2011 in Mendon, MA.

Berneta DeVries was employed as an Executive Secretary for 41 years at Massachusetts Electric Co. until her retirement in 1988. She was a graduate of Mendon High School, Class of 1945 and a graduate of Hill College in Woonsocket, RI where she received her BSS degree. Mrs. DeVries had served as past treasurer for the former Massachusetts Electric Company Credit Union and in 1985 she received the Award of Excellence from New England Electric System. A longtime member of the Mendon Unitarian Church, she was a member of the Joseph Emerson Evening Alliance, past president of the Mendon Historical Society, and secretary/treasurer of the Taft Family Association. She is survived by one step-son Barry A. (Nancy) DeVries of Redlands, CA, one step-daughter Linda A. Baker of Nashua, NH, two step-grandchildren Joshua DeVries and Jonathan DeVries and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother Linwood E. Lowell. Interment was in the Swandale Cemetery, Mendon.

Berneta M. Lowell was the daughter of Harold Freeman "Putt" Lowell (Freeman Clark Lowell and Joanna Grace (Edward Henry, Leonard, Ebenezer, Ebenezer, Robert, Robert, Robert)) Taft.

Source: www.bumafuneralhome.com

The Brothers 4

The four brothers: Henry Waters Taft, William Howard Taft, Charles Phelps Taft and Horace Dutton Taft, all sons of Alphonso and Louisa Maria (Torrey) Taft

Alphonso was the son of Peter Rawson, (Aaron, Peter, Joseph, Robert) Taft.

Source: The Taft School by Richard H. Lovelace

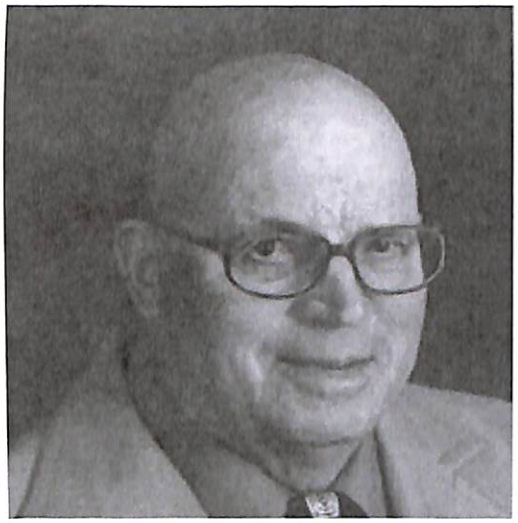
The Taft School cont from p 4

Over the years the academic standards rose and most of the boys went to Yale. In addition to academics, athletics flourished, a glee club was started as well as a band. By 1912 the school was incorporated and construction was started on a new building. 1918 brought influenza to the school and the infirmary was more than full. A new athletic field was constructed in 1926. A Board of Trustees was established in 1927 and a capital campaign of $2 million dollars was fulfilled.

Today the Taft School is a highly regarded co-educational preparatory school with 596 students in grades nine through post-graduate on a 220 acre campus. Students come from 34 states and 32 countries. More than 1,670 candidates apply for approximately 175 openings each year. Thirty-six percent of the student body receives financial aid from a budget of $7,760,000 annually. Tuition for the 2014-15 academic year is $52,300 for boarders and $38,800 for day students.

All photos and quotes are from "Mr. Taft's School: The First Century 1890-1990" by Richard H. Lovelace, including the words of Horace Dutton Taft.

Mr. Taft's School — the first year in Watertown — 1893.
The entire school on the steps of the Warren House, with Mr. Taft in the center of the back row.



In Memoriam

Richard Lee Taft

Richard Lee Taft died 9 Feb 2015 in Barron Co., WI and was buried in the Dovre Cemetery. He was born 16 Nov 1926 in Barron Co., WI, son of Lyle Elisha and Vivian (Robinson) Taft.

Richard graduated from Chetek High School in 1944. He married Arlene May Joelson November 26, 1949 at her parents' home on Prairie Lake. Together they raised 5 children and farmed east of Chetek and in New Auburn. He was a salesman for Fuller Brush products along with his wife. Richard's lifetime love was for year round fishing. He and his brother Wayne also organized Taft Family Reunions in Sand Creek. In preparation he prepared a 22 page booklet listing seven generations of the descendants of Levi and Amy (Bartlett) Taft who left the "Quaker stronghold of Richmond, NH in 1833 and settled in western NY state."

Richard is survived by his three children: Sandra (Bryce) Harelstad of New Auburn, WI, Ann (Ed Parr) Taft of Stone Lake, WI, Steve (Trilby Browning) Taft of Tucson, AZ; 9 grandchildren, Jason, Jeremy, and Jordan Harelstad, Michelle Schultz, Melissa Mikl, Joshua Amorelli, Adam Taft, Ashley Sundeen, Andrea Lemmons; and 9 great-grandchildren and a sister-in-law, Cleo Taft of Chetek, WI. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, son Greg Taft, brother Wayne Taft and step-mother Catherine (Rhone) Taft.

Richard Lee Taft was the son of Lyle Elisha (Elwin Elnoris, Elisha Rhodes, Abner, Levi, Levi, Silas, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.

Source: Burnham Ours Funeral Home

In Memoriam

Walter M. Feldman

Walter "Walt" Miller Feldman passed away 2 Aug 2011 in Amherst, MA and was buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Amherst, MA. He was born in 1944 in Ithaca, NY, son of Daniel and Sadie Feldman.

As a young teen, Walt moved to Rome, NY where he remained throughout high school, graduating 3rd in his class, achieving a perfect score on his NYS Regents Exam, garnering the Maxwell School of Public Speaking Award from Syracuse University and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout (Order of the Arrow) among many other notable achievements and honors. Upon graduation from Cornell University, he accepted a position with The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co., where he was to become one of the youngest Vice Presidents in their history. In 1990 Walt moved to Amherst, MA, purchasing a number of businesses, including the UPS Store on University Dr. He continued to accrue advanced designations and commendations throughout his careers.

Walt is survived by his wife of 47 years, Barbara (Pritchard) Feldman; daughter, Naomi (Feldman) Cota (Shane) of Richmond Hill, GA; son, Daniel Aaron Feldman (Rosa) of Amherst, MA; sister, Elizabeth (Feldman) Karlin (Geoffrey) of Islip, NY; brother, Jerome E. Feldman (Yongrong) of Germany; sister-in-law, Louise (Hertzberg) Feldman of Portland, CT; six grandchildren: Drew, Tyler and Breanna Cota; Brandon, Julia and Joshua Feldman; 8 nieces and 1 nephew: Deborah (Joel) Schafferman, Sharon (Michael) Ferrari, Corey (Warren) Karlin-Zysman, Rachelle (Eric) Kuhn; Jennifer, Linda, and Janina Feldman; Xinyi Li and Matthew (Theanne) Feldman, and their children.

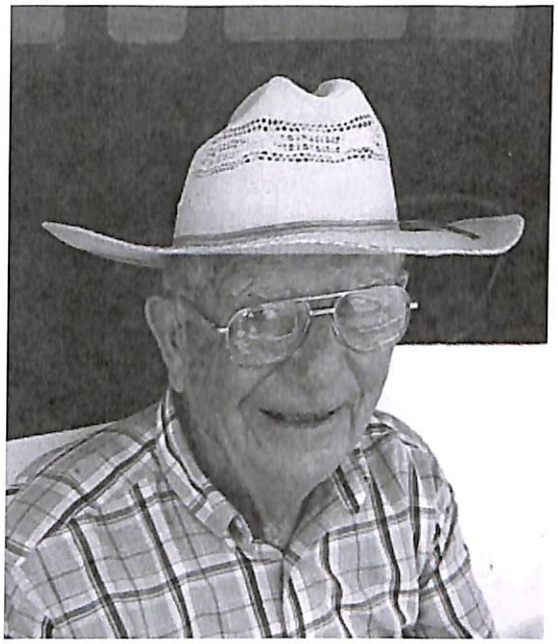
Barbara Pritchard is the daughter of Amos Roland Pritchard and Marion Cornelia Miner (Howard J. Miner and Ethel Mae Reckentine, George Reckentine and Emma Jane (Delos W., Oliver Lathrop, Dan, Silas, Stephen, Benjamin, Robert)) Taft.

Source: www.douglassfuneral.com

WAR OF 1812 Taft Service Records 1812-1815 (source: ancestry.com; War of 1812 Index to Pension Application Files from familysearch.org)

Given	Company	rank induct	rank disch	Bro	
Aaron	Artillery and Infantry Regt. (Mills'), NY Vols	private	private	M	Aaron (1792) s/o James (1768)
Aaron	17 Regt (Mead's), NY Militia	private	private	M	Aaron (1792) s/o James (1768)
Aaron	27 Regt (Bellinger's), NY Militia	private	private	M	Aaron (1792) s/o James (1768)
Amariah	114 Regt (Rice's), NY Militia	private	private	R	Amariah (1776) s/o Amariah (1747)
Amasa	Edwards Regt, Art'y, MA Militia	private	private	M	Amasa (1780) s/o Solomon (1753)
Artemas	Capt Howard 25 US Inf	private	private	?	Artemas (1766/84) s/o ?
Auren	Edward's Regt, OH Militia	private	private	R	Auren (1788) s/o Lovett (1756)
Aurin	Rayen's Regt, OH Militia	private	private	R	Auren (1788) s/o Lovett (1756)
Benjamin	1 Regt (Judson's), VT Militia	private	private	B?	Benjamin E (1794) s/o ? Benjamin (1773)
Bezeliel	Blakeslee's Regt, NY Vols	private	private	R	Bezaleel Cheney (1795) s/o Robert (1749)
Caleb	A Parrish's Co, NY Militia	captain	captain	D	Caleb (1791) s/o Caleb (1757)
Daniel	27 Regt (Bellinger's), NY Militia	corporal	corporal	M?	? bro/o Aaron (1792) s/o James (1768)
Elisha	1 Regt (Binney's), MA Militia	private	private	R	Elisha (1791) s/o Silas (1744) or Elisha (1791) s/o Elisha (1761)
Ellis	Edwards' Regt, Art'y, MA Militia	private	private	R	Ellis (1796) s/o Ebenezer (1759)
Ellis	Capt Thayers Co, MA Militia	private	private	R	Ellis (1796) s/o Ebenezer (1759)
Francis	Capt John O Hotchkiss' Co, MA Militia	captain	captain	T	Francis (1793) s/o Joseph (1757)
Gideon	Capt Harlow's Co, Vet Exempts, NY Vols	2 Lieut	2 Lieut	R	Gideon (1776) s/o Phineas (1754)
Gideon	3 Regt (Tyler's), VT Militia	private	private	R	Gideon (1776) s/o Phineas (1754)
Hosey	76 Regt (Tucker's), VT Militia	private	private	?	? perhaps misspelling
Jesse	12 NY Regt	3 serg	3 serg	R	Jesse (1783) s/o Robert (1749)
Jesse	12 Regt Cavalry (Boughton's), NY Militia	sergeant	sergeant	R	Jesse (1783) s/o Robert (1749)
John	Longley's Regt, MA Militia	private	private	R	John (1792) s/o Jacob (1751) or John (1794) s/o Josiah David (1768)
John	Edwards' Regt, Art'y, MA Militia	private	private	R	John (1792) s/o Jacob (1751) or John (1794) s/o Josiah David (1768)
Joseph R	Musician Capt Welch US Artillery	musician	musican	?	Joseph R (179?)
Josiah	Blakeslee's Regt, NY Vols	private	private	R	Josiah (1776) s/o Robert (1749)
Leonard	Edwards Regt, Art'y, MA Militia	private	private	R	Leonard (1794) s/o Ebenezer (1759)
Lyman	Chamberlin's Regt, MA Militia	private	private	J	Lyman (1795) s/o Cheney (1771)
Moses	7 Regt (Green's), NY Militia	sergeant	sergeant	T	Moses (1789) s/o Eleazar (1759)
Moses	129 Regt (Farnham), NY Militia	private	private	T	Moses (1789) s/o Eleazar (1759)
Moses	Capt Joshua Brownell's Co, NY Militia	private	private	T	Moses (1789) s/o Eleazer (1759)
Orin	Rayen's Regt, OH Militia	private	private	R	Auren (1788) s/o Lovett (1756)
Otis	3 Regt (Tyler's), VT Militia	private	private	R	Otis (1785) s/o Phineas (1754)
Perry	Benedict's Regt, NY Militia	private	private	B?	Perry (1784) s/o ? William (1758)
Robert	5 Regt Mtd. Dragoons, NY Militia	private	private	R	Robert (1788) s/o Robert (1749)
Robert	46 Regt (Coxe's), NY Militia	private	private	R	Robert (1788) s/o Robert (1749)
Shayes	157 Regt (Westcot's), NY Militia	private	private	B	Shayes (1785) s/o William (1758)
Shays	Detachment 157 and 131 Regts NY Vols	sergeant	sergeant	B	Shayes (1785) s/o William (1758)
Wales	4 Regt (Comings'), MA Militia	private	private	T?	? Rel/o Timothy (1780)

Joseph Earl "Joe" Taft and Frances Mae (Drake) Taft



Joseph Earl Taft and his third wife, Frances Mae (Drake) Taft, both passed away this winter.

Frances Mae Drake was born 16 Jul 1927 in Fletcher, TX, daughter of Francis and Minnie Mae (Christopher) Drake, and died 3 Feb 2015 in San Antonio, TX. She was buried in Mount Pisgah Community Cemetery, Woodville, TX. She married first Earin Aubrey Milner who died 3 Feb 1972 in Beaumont, TX. They had four children: Mark David, John Francis, Michael Roy, and Sharon Milner.

Joseph Earl "Joe" Taft of Seguin, TX died 12 Mar 2015 as a result of a motor vehicle accident. He was born 21 Nov 1922 in Allegan, MI, son of Sereno Lynn and Irene Elizabeth (Smith) Taft. He was buried with military honors in St. James Catholic Cemetery.

During World War II Joe served as an airplane and engine mechanic in the Army Air Corp. He worked for twenty five years as a machinist foreman at DuPont Sabine Riverworks; owned the Grapevine Mini-storage in Seguin; and established the Brushy Creek Estates subdivision in Lumberton, TX, where he spent many years ranching cattle. Joe and Frances were avid bowlers and shared a passion for their monthly bus trips to Coushatta. Joseph Earl Taft was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: LaVern "Pudgy" Taft, Ray Taft, Raymond Taft, Harold Taft, and Donald Taft, son Glenn Anthony Taft, and stepsons Mark Milner and John Milner. Survivors include his sons Joseph P. Taft (Karen) of Eldridge, IA, and Lonnie D. Taft of Floresville, TX; daughters Doreen Taft of Seguin, TX, and Cynthia Gail Rach of San Marcos, TX; stepson Michael R. Milner of Kountze, TX, and stepdaughter Sharon Okum of Denver, CO.; grandchildren Tammy Ann Wise, Angela Wise, Jamie Taft, Scott Taft, Angela Milner, Stephen Rach, Russell Rach, Darrell Okum, Renee Okum-Boykin, eight great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

Joseph Earl Taft married first in 1943 in Newton-le Willows, Lancastershire, ENG Irene Doreen Poole who was born in 1922 and died in 1999 in Lexington, KY, daughter of Samuel and Florence Cooksey (Oakes) Poole of Lancastershire, ENG. Joseph and Irene Taft had two children: Iris Doreen and Elizabeth Ann Taft. Joseph Earl Taft married second in 1951 in Port Arthur, TX Gloria Mae Herrington, widow of Charles Schrieber. Joseph adopted her two children: Lonnie Davis and Cynthia Gail Schreiber. They had two children; Joseph Paul and Glen Anthony Taft.

Joseph Earl "Joe" was the son of Sereno Lynn (Edwin Bryant, James, Caleb, Caleb, Caleb, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

Source: Seguin Gazette 17 Mar 2015

Louise Plumley, our inveterate chronicler of the Pennsylvania Tafts writes

Her husband has suffered some setbacks this winter but is back home now recovering well. He came home shortly after their 64th wedding anniversary. We send our heartfelt sympathies to his family on the loss of his oldest sister. Louise's sister Phyllis' husband Ben was also recently in the hospital as well, but is back home. This is a very hardy, stalwart family.

Thank you too, Louise, for sending on more information on the family – we will be adding that to our databases.

We agree it's getting hot – at least in the north. With all the rain this week we are out of our drought, but we empathize with those in the west and south with their REAL droughts or floods – what a weird weather time we are going through.

Taft Family Association Officers

President: still searching
Vice President & Genealogist: now searching
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Annual dues of $8 per family are due and payable each year on or before June.
(Your dues are paid through the year on your mailing label.)